West Suffolk Council

Annual Appointments to the Financial Resilience and the Health and Safety Sub-Committee's (2023 to 2024)

Report number:	PAS/WS/23/015	
Report to and date(s):	**Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee**	27 July 2023
Cabinet Member(s):	Councillor Diane Hind Cabinet Member for Resources Tel: 01284 706542 Email: diane.hind@westsuffolk.gov.uk Councillor Gerald Kelly Cabinet Member for Governance and Regulatory Tel: 07968 396389 Email: Gerald.kelly@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
Lead officers:	Teresa Halliday Monitoring Officer Telephone: 01284 757144 Email: teresa.halliday@westsuffolk.gov.uk	

Decisions Plan: This item is not included in the decisions plan.

Wards impacted: Not applicable.

Recommendations: It is recommended that the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee:

1. Recommends **one Substitute Member** from the membership of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee to sit on the Financial

Resilience Sub-Committee for 2023 to 2024: and

2. **Recommends <u>six members</u> and <u>two Substitute</u> Members from the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee to sit on the Health and Safety Sub-Committee for 2023 to 2024.**

1. Context to this report

1.1 At the Annual Council meeting held on 23 May 2023, West Suffolk Council approved the allocation of 12 seats to the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee.

1.2 The Constitution sets out that the appointment of members to the Financial Resilience Sub-Committee and the Health and Safety Sub-Committee be undertaken at the first meeting of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee following Annual Council or following a review of the allocation of seats on committees during the year.

1.3 The Constitution further expects that in making such appointments, the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee seeks to do so in a manner that reflects the political balance as far as practically possible.

1.4 In practice, as there are only a total of 9 appointments to the two sub committees (plus substitutes) it would be very difficult to be compliant with the full political balance calculations. As such, the proposals below have been developed to try to achieve an equitable and fair allocation to the groups across both sub-committees.

1.5 Due to the small number of substitutes, some groups will not have a nominated substitute. However, if they cannot make a meeting and the group does not have a nominated substitute, a temporary substitute can be nominated by their group leader to the Monitoring Officer.

2. Proposals within this report

2.1 Appointments to the Financial Resilience Sub-Committee

2.1.1 The Financial Resilience Sub-Committee will comprise three members and one substitute member of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee, which, as above, desirably reflects the political balance of the Council, as far as practically possible.

2.1.2 A proposed seat allocation is set out below:

Group	Seat Allocation
Conservative Group	1
Independents	1
Progressive Alliance Grouping	1
Total	**3**
Substitute	1

2.1.3   The Committee at its meeting held on 22 June 2023 appointed the following members to the Financial Resilience Sub-Committee:

Group	Seat Allocation
Conservative Group 　- Councillor Ian Houlder	1
Independents 　- Councillor Frank Stennett	1
Progressive Alliance Grouping 　- Councillor Sue Perry	1
Total	**3**
Substitute	1

2.1.4   However, the Committee decided to defer making a decision on the substitute place on the Financial Resilience Sub-Committee. The seat has not been allocated to a particular group. Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee may appoint a member to the group. If it is not practical to do so then, in the event that a member of the Sub-Committee cannot attend, a temporary substitute may be nominated by the group leader to the Monitoring Officer.

2.2   **Appointments to the Health and Safety Sub-Committee**

2.2.1   The Health and Safety Sub-Committee meets three times a year (June / October / February) and will comprise six councillors and six members of staff. The six councillors and two substitutes shall be the "employers" side and drawn from the membership of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee, which, as above, desirably reflects the political balance of the Council, as far as practically possible.

Six members of staff and two substitutes (to be the employee's side) shall be drawn from the Officer Health and Safety Group.

2.2.2   A proposed seat allocation is set out below:

Group	Seat Allocation
Conservative Group	2
Independents	2
Progressive Alliance Grouping	2
Total	**6**
Substitute (Conservative Group)	1
Substitute (Independents)	1

2.2.3   Following the meeting on 22 June 2023, nominations were sort to sit on the Sub-Committee. Nominations received are set out below:

Group	Seat Allocation

Conservative Group:
  -   Councillor Ian Houlder
  -   Councillor Mike Chester
	2

Independents:
  -   Councillor Andy Neal
  -   Councillor Phil Wittam
	2

Progressive Alliance Grouping:
  -   Councillor Peter Armitage
  -   Councillor Janne Jarvis
	2

Total	**6**
Substitute (Conservative Group) -	1
Substitute (Independents) -	1

2.2.4   The Progressive Alliance Grouping has not been allocated a substitute place on the Health and Safety Sub-Committee as they have the lowest number of members on the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee. However, in the event that a Progressive Alliance Grouping member of the Sub-Committee cannot attend a meeting of the Sub-Committee, a temporary substitute may be nominated by the group leader to the Monitoring Officer.

3.   Alternative options that have been considered

3.1   None, as the matter under consideration is required by the Constitution.

4.   Consultation and engagement undertaken

4.1   None.

5.   Risks associated with the proposals

5.1   None.

6.   Background documents associated with this report

6.1   None